

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

AID/NESA/SA:CHREES

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R 082046Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NP

SUBJECT: NEPAL AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: STATE 210995

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE BHEKH THAPA INDICATED TO US SEPTEMBER 5 THAT IBRD HAD AGREED TO NEPAL'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND FIRST MEETING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE NEXT MAY.

2. WE CONTACTED DIAMOND AT BANK FOR CONFIRMATION AND LEARNED BANK SYMPATHETICALLY INCLINED TO NEPALESE PROPOSAL BUT WANTED ADDITIONAL TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT. AMONG THEIR CONCERNS ARE THE NEED FOR A DOMESTIC STAFF AND THE FACT THAT NO ECONOMIC MISSION PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR NEPAL.

3. DIAMOND SAID HE HAD ASKED THAPA TO CONSIDER TWO MATTERS: (1) NEPALESE APPARENTLY ENVISION CONSORTIUM
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ARRANGEMENT REQUIRING DONORS TO MAKE PLEDGES OF

ASSISTANCE; BANK FELT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT NOT WELCOME THIS; AND (2) BANK AND MANY DONORS HAD CONCERNS ABOUT NEPAL'S CAPACITY TO ABSORB LARGER AMOUNTS OF EXTERNAL

ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY WHETHER ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY TO FORMULATE AND PREPARE PROJECTS IS ADEQUATE.

4. DIAMOND SAID NEXT STEP WAS FOR FURTHER TALKS BETWEEN BANK AND NEPALESE. HE THOUGHT EARLIEST TIME ANY CONSULTATIVE GROUP COULD MEET, ASSUMING ALL DETAILS WERE SORTED OUT IN TIME, WOULD BE LATE NEXT SPRING. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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